

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W

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P 201131Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7400

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FROM AMBASSADOR FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CT, US

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 175856; (B) BANGUI 1343

1. DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE INDICATING INCREASED AID AWARENESS OF NEED
FOR EXPANDED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN CAR IS MOST WELCOME NEWS

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I FULLY CONCUR IN THRUST OF DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND BELIEVE A LARGE
R

AND MORE IMAGINATIVE AID PROGRAM IS FULLY MERITED BY DEVELOPMENT NEED
S

OF CAR AND IN TERMS OF OUR POLITICAL INTERESTS. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE

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GOCAR IN GENERAL AND PRESIDENT BOKASSA IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN
PRESSING US TO MAKE A MORE TANGIBLE INPUT INTO CAR'S DEVELOPMENT
EFFORTS. OUR PERFORMANCE TO DATE HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING.

2. HOWEVER, AS DEPARTMENT ALSO AWARE THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE LOCAL
CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT AID HERE. TOO RAPID EXPANSION WOULD
STRAIN OUR OWN AND GOCAR'S FACILITIES AND RISK AN UNACCEPTABLY HIGH
FAILURE RATE OR INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECTS WITH POOR FEASIBILITY PROSPEC
TS

AND LOW RATES OF RETURN. HOWEVER A PROGRAM AT THE TWO-THREE MILLION D
OLLAR

LEVEL FOR THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS WOULD MAKE MUCH SENSE,

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ALTHOUGH IDENTIFICATION OF VIABLE PROJECTS WITHIN CONGRESSIONAL

GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE EASY. ABILITY OF GOCAR TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUREAUCRATIC SUPPORT IS ALSO LIMITED GIVEN LACK OF TRAINED OFFICIALS, CENTRALIZATION OF DECISION-MAKING IN PRESIDENT'S HANDS, AND NUMEROUS COMPETING DEMANDS FROM OTHER DONOR. THESE FACTORS IMPOSE EFFECTIVE CONSTRAINTS ON OUR AID PROSPECTS AND MUST BE KEPT IN MIND AS WE GO FORWARD.

3. THE GOCAR'S BASIC APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS TO MAXIMIZE EXTERNAL INPUTS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE AT SAME TIME ACCEPTING CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHILE LOCAL AFRICAN EXPERTISE IS BEING DEVELOPED. THE HIGHEST PERCEIVED PRIORITY IS FOR TRANSPORTATION: ROADS, RIVER PORT DEVELOPMENT, AND A RAILWAY. THIS PRIORITY IS BASED ON THE LAND-LOCKED SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE VERY HIGH COSTS OF IMPORTS BY THE PRESENT LIMITED OR ANTEQUATED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. ANY US AID STRATEGY FOR THE CAR SHOULD KEEP THIS PRIORITY IN MIND. WHILE THIS PRIORITY IS EVIDENTLY NOT CONSISTENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL GUIDELINES IN TERMS OF BILATERAL AID, WE SHOULD USE OUR NOT INCONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH MULTILATERAL DONORS, NOTABLY THE WORLD BANK, TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED INPUTS IN PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. OUR BILATERAL EFFORTS SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON SECONDARY PRIORITIES OF DEVELOPING HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE.

4. WITH THIS STRATEGY IN MIND, WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO FURTHER PROJECTS. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE 1975 DAP WITH THIS END IN VIEW. DAP CONTAINS MUCH USEFUL ANALYSIS, BUT IS LACKING IN SPECIFICITY. GIVEN LACK OF PENDING PROJECTS, IN CONSIDERING A QUANTITATIVE EXPANSION OF AID, WE HAVE GIVEN PRIMARY ATTENTION TO BUILDING ON EXISTING PROJECT INITIATIVES RATHER THAN SEEKING A PROLIFERATION OF SMALL PROJECTS INTO NEW AREAS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SEVERAL AREAS WHERE NEW STARTS MIGHT PROFITABLY BE MADE.

5. PROJECT PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN THIS MESSAGE ARE TENTATIVE AND OBVIOUSLY NEED TO BE FLESHED OUT BY AID/W AND RDO/YAOUNDE. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, VERY MUCH WELCOME VISIT BY WASHINGTON-BASED OFFICER TO WORK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF RDO/Y ON FUTURE PROJECT SELECTION AND DESIGN. WE ARE ALSO DELIGHTED AT PROSPECT OF EARLY ASSIGNMENT OF AID PROGRAM OFFICER, WHOSE SERVICES COULD

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IMMEDIATELY BE PUT TO GOOD USE. WE ASSUME SUITABLE PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR LOCAL HIRE SUPPORT. FOLLOWING IDEAS ARE PROVIDED SECTORALLY:

6. AGRICULTURE - GRAIN PRODUCTION

WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN A MODEFT DOLS 260,000 PROGRAM IN SEED MULTIPLICATION WHICH UNDER EXISTING PLNS WILL ENTAIL ONLY A TWO

YEAR COMMITMENT FOR FYS 76 AND 77. WE SHOULD PROMPTLY CONSIDER A FOLLOW-ON PROJECT COVERING AT LEAST THE TWO SUCCESSIVE FISCAL YEARS. SUCH A FOLLOW-ON PROJECT SHOULD PROBABLY ENVISAGE A USAID ADVISOR, POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF SEED PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING AN EXTENSION SYSTEM TO FACILITATE DISTRIBUTION OF IMPROVED SEEDS IN RURAL AREAS. PARTICIPANT TRAINING OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS, RESEARCH WORKERS, AND EXTENSION AGENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED. TITAL ESTIMATED COST DOLS 300,000 - 400,000.

7. AGRICULTURE - MISCELLANEOUS

WHEN FRENCH TECHNICIANS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS AND EXPERIMENTAL FARMS IN LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S A NUMBER OF WORTHWHILE PROJECTS IN POULTRY AND EGG PRODUCTION AND TRUCK FARMING WERE ABANDONED. THESE SECTORS CONTINUE TO OFFER CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL AND WE MIGHT WISH TO LOOK INTO PILOT PROJECT, PERHAPS WITH PEACE CORPS SUPPORT IN FY 78. USAID INPUTS MIGHT BE IN THE RANGE OF DOLS 200,000 - 300,000.

8. AGRICULTURE - RESEARCH

LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO IMPROVE THE NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES OF MANIOC, THE BASIC STAPLE IN CAR DIET. AID MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP OF RESEARCH IN THIS AREA. WE HAVE NO COST ESTIMATES TO SUGGEST.

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7401

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9. HEALTH - DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN BANGUI'S 1343 CONTAINING GOCAR'S COMMENTS ON OUHAM PROJECT, IN LIGHT OF WHICH IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN INPUTS IS POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES PRESENT THEMSELVES: A) ADD DOLS 500,000 TO EXISTING PROJECT TO ENABLE MORE EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION EFFORT FOR HEALTH INFRA-STRUCTURE IN BOTH OUHAM AND BASSE KOTTO; B) PLAN IN FY 78 TO REPLICATE OUHAM PROJECT IN BASSE KOTTO (AND PERHAPS ALSO IN LOBAYE) WITH ASSIGNMENT OF AID TECHNICIANS TO PREFECTURAL HEADQUARTERS BANGASSOU (AND M'BAIKI) WITH ALL ATTENDENT SUPPORT FACILITIES OF OUHAM PROJECT. COST WOULD BE BETWEEN DOLS 1.3 AND 2.5 MILLION DEPENDING ON WHETHER ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL PREFECTURES CHOSEN; C) COMBINATION OF A) AND B). UNDER THIS OPTION OUHAM PROJECT WOULD BE INCREASED BY DOLS 200,000 TO 300,000 TO PERMIT START ON HEALTH POST CONSTRUCTION IN BASSE KOTTO FOLLOWED BY MORE EXTENSIVE PROGRAM WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE XOMPONENT IN FY 78. IN TERMS OF OUR POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL INTERESTS THIRD OPTION WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

10. LIVESTOCK - WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO PROGRAM IN THIS AREA WHICH HAS ENOURMOUS POTENTIAL IN CAR. WE WOULD SUGGEST PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO GOCAR VETERINARY RESEARCH STATION AND TRAINING SCHOOL AT BOUAR, NOW SUPPORTED BY UNDP/FAO AND FED, RESPECTIVELY.. IN THIS REGARD WE SUGGEST A PROMPT FOLLOW-ON TO IDEAS ON PAGE K-31 OF DAP TO PROVIDE RANGE MANAGEMENT AND ANNUAL PRODUCTION EXPERTISE TO SCHOOL AT BOUAR; AND TO DEVELOP SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPANT TRAINING EFFORT IN US. TOTAL COST OVER NEXT TWO YEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTIMATED AT DOLS 500,000.

11. WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN DOLS 500,000 WELLS PROGRAM IN NORTHERN CAR WITH PEACE CORPS SUPPORT. THIS PROJECT CURRENTLY ANTICIPATES CREATION OF TWO DRILLING TEAMS. WE SHOULD PLAN TO EXTEND PROJECT IN FY 78 BY CREATION OF THIRD TEAM. TOTAL COST WOULD BE DOLS 250,000. SUPPLY OF ADEQUATE AND SANITARY VILLAGE DRINKING WATER IS URGENT NEED IN ALMOST ALL DISTRICTS OF CAR. EXPANDED WELLS PROJECT MIGHT ALSO INVOLVE LIMITED MARKET GARDEN IRRIGATION PARTICULARLY IN NORTHERN REGION. EXPANSION OF PROJECT MIGHT BE TIED IN WITH SCHOOL WELLS PROJECT ALREADY FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON.

12. EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

AID HAS BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE IN THESE SECTORS. WE FIND MOST INNOVATIVE POTENTIAL IS NATIONAL PEDAGOGY INSTITUTE WHICH IS ENDEAVORING TO RESTRUCTURE TRADITIONAL PRIMARY EDUCATION TO MEET NEEDS OF RURAL SOCIETY. WE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER OFFER OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TEAM (COMPARABLE TO ONE NOW WORKING

IN NEPAL IN SUPPORT OF GON'S NEW EDUCATIONAL PLAN.)
PARTICIPANT TRAINING SHOULD ALSO BE INTEGRAL PART OF SUCH A
PROJECT. SUCH AN EFFORT IS ANTICIPATED IN DAP. TOTAL AID OVER
THREE YEARS BEGINNING FY 1978 ESTIMATED AT DOLS ONE MILLION.

13. MISCELLANEOUS WE WOULD ALSO STRONGLY URGE DEPARTMENT
SUPPORT FOR TWO MINOR BUT NONETHELESS SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS
WHICH ARE AWAITING AID/W DECISION - DOLS 150,000 FOR BEN ZWI
WOMEN'S CENGER AND DOLS 118,000 FOR JOINT AID/PEACE CORPS
FISHERIES PROJECT.

14. PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR CONCURS IN THESE SUGGESTIONS.
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